(d) whether it is a fact that the English Dailies are more Urban oriented; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The total number of Newspapers (Dailies) registered with Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) by the end of 2001 was 5638. The Government does not maintain readership data. However, on the basis of Annual Statements submitted by 1308 dailies for the year 2001, their claimed circulation was 5,78,44,236.

(b) and (c) Annual Statements submitted by the 1308 dailies indicate that by and large, they have larger proportion of urban circulation. The percentage of coverage by the dailies of the rural news items is not maintained by the Government.

(d) and (e) Further, an analysis of the newspapers registered with RNI indicates that English dailies had larger concentration in urban areas.

Role of NFDC

1590. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the National Film Development Corporation in giving support, financial or otherwise, to the film connected activities running in different States;

(b) the role played by NFDC in the film-related affairs of Tripura; and

(c) the details of the administrative network the NFDC has formed all over the country and the extent of its achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The mission of National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC) is to be a leader in fostering excellence in cinema and to promote culture and understanding through the audiovisual media.

NFDC's operations cover a wide range of activities like producing quality films, facilitating export of Indian films with special emphasis on small budget filmmakers, promoting Indian films through television and satellite channels, importing and distributing of foreign films and, providing high quality infrastructure facilities to the film industry, etc.

The Corporation has its Head office at Mumbai; three regional centres at Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata; and four branch offices at Trivandrum, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Guwahati.

In about two and a half decades NFDC produced/co-produced and financed more than 200 films many of which have been widely acclaimed and won international and national recognition. NFDC has also been instrumental in facilitating international exposure of the film industry through participation in major international film festivals and markets like Cannes, Hong Kong and American Film Market.

NFDC also extends technical facilities to the film industry in its various centers at Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai and its laser Sub-titling Center at Mumbai is the first of its kind in Asia meeting the Indian as well as foreign film industry's requirements.

NFDC provides assistance to film makers of all regions, but has stated that it has not received any suitable script for production of films from the State of Tripura.

Affairs of Kolkata DD Kendra

1591. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether incorrect interpretation of commercial rates by Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata resulted in undue financial benefit of Rs. 2.20 crore to a sponsor if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have taken any punitive step in the wake of the incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (b) The C and AG in Paragraph No. 5.3 of C and